



U.S. ARMY

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

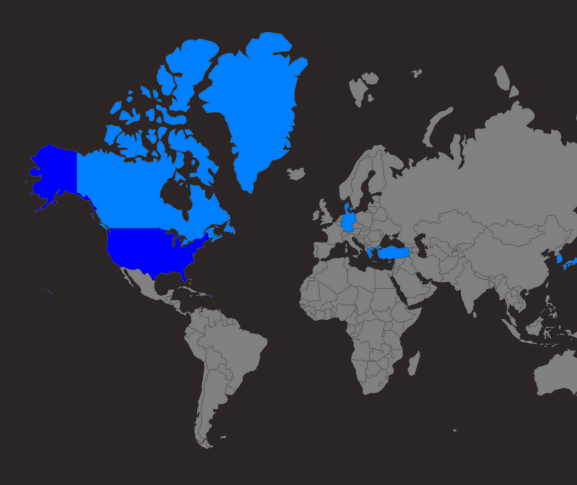
Ordnance & Memorial Field



M51 SKYSWEEPER

AIR DEFENSE

The M51 Skysweeper was designed to protect air-space in the middle-altitudes between 20,000 and 40,000 feet against subsonic aircraft.



COLD WAR

QUICK FACTS ON THE M51

Weight	8,750 lbs.
Dimensions (L, W, H)	11.7', 6.2', 7.8'
Range	Around 8 miles
Crew	Up to 4
Variants	4
Number Produced	Around 1,800
Country of Origin	United States

A SHORT HISTORY

Officially designated at the Gun, M51, Anti-aircraft, the M51 Skysweeper was designed to handle aircraft cruising at speeds of up to 700 miles per hour. By comparison, at the time of its introduction in 1951, the contemporary jet fighters were the F-86 Sabre and the MiG-15 which traveled at 687 and 667 miles per hour, respectively. The M51 was fitted with a radar system and computer that was developed by the Sperry Gyroscope Company. The M35 75-mm gun was developed by Watervilet Arsenal and was fed by two ten-round revolver magazines. The autoloader allowed it to reach up to 45 rounds per minute. The T38 radar system could detect enemy aircraft as far as 23 miles away. The system was first produced in its entirety in 1951 and fielded immediately, although it was not publicly disclosed until 1953.



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ON THE LINE